News Release

More than 40 percent of students qualify for free or reduced-price meals

MADISON — School meal reimbursement data for the current school year shows that two out of every five public school students receives free or reduced-price school meals based on household income, a 6.8 percent increase from last school year.

Wisconsin has 346,184 students (41.4 percent) qualifying for free or reduced-price school meals, an increase of 22,011 from last school year when 39.0 percent of students qualified for free or reduced-price meals. The percentage of students eligible for subsidized meals has increased steadily for the past seven years.

Free or Reduced-Price Meal Eligibility	
Public School Districts Only	
School Year	**Percent Eligible**
2003-04	29.5
2004-05	30.5
2005-06	31.1
2006-07	32.4
2007-08	33.4
2008-09	35.5
2009-10	39.0
2010-11	41.4

"Funding for public schools is vital at a time when two out of five students receive free or reduced-price school meals," said State Superintendent Tony Evers. "The proposed 2011-13 budget makes huge cuts to education, balancing the fiscal follies of adults on the backs of children, especially those living in poverty. We need a budget that is fair, equitable, and does not do permanent harm to our public schools."

For the current school year, Wisconsin has 95 public school districts in which 50 percent or more of students qualified for free or reduced-price school meals, up from 72 districts last year. Eight districts have subsidized meal eligibility rates of 70 percent or more: Bayfield, Beloit, Lac du Flambeau, Menomonee Indian, Milwaukee, Siren, Webster, and Winter. Sixty-three districts had eligibility increases of 20 percent or more from last school year. Of the state's 424 public school districts, all but 10 participate in the National School Lunch Program.

"Families that face economic challenges come from all parts of our state," Evers noted. "My school finance plan accounted for poverty with a weighting factor for state school aids and targeted state resources to children in poverty and at-risk students. The Webster School District is an example of the inequity of the current school funding system. The district now has a subsidized meal eligibility rate of 76.8 percent, yet receives no state equalization aid

(more)

to support the education of its children. The unprecedented cuts to public education in the proposed 2011-13 budget disproportionately target our students' schools and negatively impact children and families who struggle the most."

According to federal eligibility guidelines, children in households with incomes at or below 130 percent of the federal poverty rate, or $28,655 annual income for a family of four, receive free meals. Students approved for reduced-price meals, which account for just 6.1 percent of public school students statewide this year, are from families whose annual income is under 185 percent of the federal poverty rate. For a family of four, income would be between $28,655 and $40,793.

Families can apply for free or reduced-price school meals at any time, though schools enroll most students for the school lunch and breakfast programs at the beginning of the school year. Eligibility is based on total household income. Families that receive FoodShare, Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), or Wisconsin Works (W-2) benefits and foster children that have been formally placed by a state child welfare agency or court are eligible for free meals. All information about eligibility is kept confidential and programs must follow nondiscrimination laws.

"Poverty can have a harsh impact on student learning," Evers said. "The National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs have been providing nutrition to school-age children for decades. Research shows that students who eat school meals perform better in math, reading, and other subjects; are more attentive in class; and have better behavior in school. These programs certainly make a difference in the lives of our kids, especially those from low-income families."

NOTES: A list of free or reduced-price meal eligibility rates for the 2009-10 and 2010-11 school years is attached. Additional information about the National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs is available on the Department of Public Instruction Wisconsin Child Nutrition Programs website at http://dpi.wi.gov/fns/index.html. This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpinr2011_25.pdf. A spreadsheet and map of free and reduced-price meal data is available at http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/newsroom.html.

Free or Reduced-Price School Meal Eligibility

School District	2010-11 % Free and Reduced	2009-10 % Free and Reduced
Statewide Total	**41.4%**	**39.0%**
Abbotsford	60.0%	61.3%
Adams-Friendship Area	68.2%	68.3%
Albany	34.8%	23.8%
Algoma	40.5%	38.3%
Alma	37.9%	36.1%
Alma Center	58.9%	58.3%
Almond-Bancroft	56.6%	57.0%
Altoona	43.2%	40.8%
Amery	42.0%	39.3%
Antigo	56.0%	53.5%
Appleton Area	35.1%	32.9%
Arcadia	47.0%	45.1%
Argyle	29.9%	27.5%
Arrowhead UHS	6.6%	--
Ashland	55.6%	52.5%
Ashwaubenon	26.3%	23.4%
Athens	34.3%	30.3%
Auburndale	37.6%	30.4%
Augusta	54.1%	54.8%
Baldwin-Woodville Area	24.4%	26.0%
Bangor	31.8%	31.9%
Baraboo	41.5%	38.1%
Barneveld	24.3%	18.7%
Barron Area	58.1%	53.1%
Bayfield	79.8%	72.9%
Beaver Dam	44.9%	40.8%
Beecher-Dunbar-Pembine	63.1%	59.5%
Belleville	23.2%	17.7%
Belmont Community	28.4%	29.2%
Beloit	76.5%	70.4%
Beloit Turner	35.7%	33.3%
Benton	37.9%	31.0%
Berlin Area	41.7%	38.7%
Big Foot UHS	30.6%	29.0%
Birchwood	60.0%	57.3%
Black Hawk	42.9%	38.4%
Black River Falls	46.4%	45.1%
Blair-Taylor	42.3%	43.0%
Bloomer	40.2%	38.4%
Bonduel	45.8%	42.0%
Boscobel Area Schools	54.4%	54.5%
Bowler	60.7%	59.9%
Boyceville Community	49.5%	51.5%
Brighton #1	26.0%	21.8%
Brillion	25.8%	23.2%
Bristol #1	23.6%	22.8%

Districts without data do not participate in the National School Lunch Program.

Free or Reduced-Price School Meal Eligibility

School District	2010-11 % Free and Reduced	2009-10 % Free and Reduced
Statewide Total	**41.4%**	**39.0%**
Brodhead	37.0%	32.6%
Brown Deer	38.5%	32.0%
Bruce	58.4%	55.2%
Burlington Area	37.4%	30.3%
Butternut	62.1%	58.4%
Cadott Community	48.0%	47.1%
Cambria-Friesland	51.4%	43.8%
Cambridge	23.9%	17.8%
Cameron	48.9%	44.0%
Campbellsport	24.5%	21.8%
Cashton	44.0%	42.4%
Cassville	46.8%	35.9%
Cedar Grove-Belgium Area	18.5%	16.4%
Cedarburg	7.8%	7.2%
Central/Westosha UHS	22.7%	19.2%
Chequamegon	51.2%	45.4%
Chetek-Weyerhaueser	46.5%	49.8%
Chilton	29.6%	26.9%
Chippewa Falls Area	36.9%	34.4%
Clayton	52.1%	47.2%
Clear Lake	40.8%	42.6%
Clinton Community	29.3%	27.5%
Clintonville	47.2%	46.0%
Cochrane-Fountain City	33.8%	31.3%
Colby	50.7%	47.5%
Coleman	57.9%	45.3%
Colfax	40.3%	41.1%
Columbus	25.9%	23.9%
Cornell	53.8%	55.1%
Crandon	45.0%	43.0%
Crivitz	54.7%	51.9%
Cuba City	32.9%	30.9%
Cudahy	51.4%	46.9%
Cumberland	51.2%	50.3%
D C Everest Area	32.2%	30.4%
Darlington Community	30.2%	25.9%
De Forest Area	22.7%	20.4%
De Pere	17.0%	17.6%
De Soto Area	50.2%	53.3%
Deerfield Community	24.7%	22.8%
Delavan-Darien	62.5%	59.8%
Denmark	17.4%	16.1%
Dodgeland	39.1%	36.5%
Dodgeville	37.1%	34.9%
Dover #1	29.1%	25.3%
Drummond	52.3%	52.3%
Durand	37.2%	33.4%
East Troy Community	29.6%	20.6%

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Free or Reduced-Price School Meal Eligibility

School District	2010-11 % Free and Reduced	2009-10 % Free and Reduced
Statewide Total	**41.4%**	**39.0%**
Eau Claire Area	40.6%	37.7%
Edgar	30.7%	31.5%
Edgerton	32.7%	29.6%
Elcho	52.3%	48.1%
Eleva-Strum	36.9%	37.0%
Elk Mound Area	31.3%	28.5%
Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah	--	--
Elkhorn Area	33.5%	30.6%
Ellsworth Community	21.6%	22.0%
Elmbrook	11.3%	10.1%
Elmwood	43.1%	34.6%
Erin	9.7%	10.0%
Evansville Community	24.5%	24.5%
Fall Creek	28.0%	28.6%
Fall River	32.7%	27.3%
Fennimore Community	45.0%	42.3%
Flambeau	60.3%	59.9%
Florence	47.1%	41.4%
Fond du Lac	40.3%	40.6%
Fontana J8	25.0%	21.1%
Fort Atkinson	36.5%	32.1%
Fox Point J2	12.8%	9.7%
Franklin	12.9%	11.4%
Frederic	58.7%	57.4%
Freedom Area	18.5%	19.8%
Friess Lake	4.9%	3.0%
Galesville-Ettrick	30.6%	29.5%
Geneva J4	--	--
Genoa City J2	--	--
Germantown	14.2%	11.6%
Gibraltar Area	22.5%	18.5%
Gillett	51.7%	48.4%
Gilman	66.9%	64.2%
Gilmanton	36.8%	38.8%
Glendale-River Hills	33.3%	25.1%
Glenwood City	34.8%	31.8%
Goodman-Armstrong	57.8%	59.4%
Grafton	17.4%	14.4%
Granton Area	59.3%	63.6%
Grantsburg	43.3%	44.9%
Green Bay Area	56.5%	52.9%
Green Lake	29.0%	18.7%
Greendale	19.4%	18.1%
Greenfield	37.9%	33.0%
Greenwood	51.9%	51.0%
Gresham	66.7%	53.9%
Hamilton	13.9%	11.7%
Hartford J1	39.5%	34.7%

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Free or Reduced-Price School Meal Eligibility

School District	2010-11 % Free and Reduced	2009-10 % Free and Reduced
Statewide Total	**41.4%**	**39.0%**
Hartford UHS	21.8%	18.8%
Hartland-Lakeside J3	17.5%	16.0%
Hayward Community	62.4%	54.9%
Herman #22	41.6%	36.0%
Highland	23.6%	22.2%
Hilbert	21.4%	22.5%
Hillsboro	42.6%	39.6%
Holmen	27.2%	27.1%
Horicon	40.0%	33.4%
Hortonville	17.4%	15.0%
Howards Grove	15.6%	12.2%
Howard-Suamico	19.1%	16.8%
Hudson	15.2%	14.2%
Hurley	53.8%	49.2%
Hustisford	28.9%	29.7%
Independence	47.7%	40.9%
Iola-Scandinavia	37.9%	33.5%
Iowa-Grant	37.7%	36.8%
Ithaca	29.9%	30.7%
Janesville	49.7%	45.0%
Jefferson	40.7%	35.2%
Johnson Creek	33.8%	24.2%
Juda	37.7%	31.7%
Kaukauna Area	27.9%	25.6%
Kenosha	48.3%	45.3%
Kettle Moraine	9.4%	8.4%
Kewaskum	20.7%	16.3%
Kewaunee	26.7%	24.2%
Kickapoo Area	57.9%	55.6%
Kiel Area	27.9%	24.9%
Kimberly Area	12.7%	12.4%
Kohler	--	--
La Crosse	47.9%	46.4%
La Farge	59.0%	53.7%
Lac du Flambeau #1	90.3%	89.5%
Ladysmith	55.5%	57.5%
Lake Country	7.3%	6.5%
Lake Geneva J1	55.1%	52.9%
Lake Geneva-Genoa UHS	38.6%	32.4%
Lake Holcombe	56.0%	51.7%
Lake Mills Area	27.4%	24.8%
Lakeland UHS	41.8%	37.2%
Lancaster Community	40.2%	37.5%
Laona	43.5%	43.7%
Lena	48.2%	44.3%
Linn J4	43.0%	48.2%
Linn J6	29.7%	25.2%
Little Chute Area	31.4%	34.2%

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Free or Reduced-Price School Meal Eligibility

School District	2010-11 % Free and Reduced	2009-10 % Free and Reduced
Statewide Total	**41.4%**	**39.0%**
Lodi	17.3%	16.1%
Lomira	25.6%	22.0%
Loyal	51.4%	57.7%
Luck	45.3%	47.7%
Luxemburg-Casco	19.4%	16.8%
Madison Metropolitan	51.0%	49.7%
Manawa	40.5%	34.9%
Manitowoc	48.7%	44.0%
Maple	38.4%	33.3%
Maple Dale-Indian Hill	17.4%	12.5%
Marathon City	18.0%	14.2%
Marinette	53.8%	50.1%
Marion	61.3%	56.6%
Markesan	36.6%	34.2%
Marshall	34.7%	34.7%
Marshfield	31.7%	29.2%
Mauston	55.3%	50.9%
Mayville	29.3%	28.1%
McFarland	18.9%	17.3%
Medford Area	39.9%	37.5%
Mellen	59.7%	57.5%
Melrose-Mindoro	37.3%	36.3%
Menasha	54.6%	51.7%
Menominee Indian	80.8%	80.8%
Menomonee Falls	19.7%	16.0%
Menomonie Area	45.0%	42.7%
Mequon-Thiensville	7.6%	6.6%
Mercer	63.1%	55.1%
Merrill Area	52.8%	48.6%
Merton Community	--	--
Middleton-Cross Plains	18.2%	16.0%
Milton	24.7%	19.9%
Milwaukee	82.6%	80.7%
Mineral Point	19.9%	19.9%
Minocqua J1	39.9%	36.0%
Mishicot	20.7%	22.8%
Mondovi	38.4%	38.2%
Monona Grove	19.1%	16.9%
Monroe	37.6%	29.9%
Montello	49.2%	45.8%
Monticello	29.2%	23.6%
Mosinee	32.6%	30.7%
Mount Horeb Area	13.7%	12.4%
Mukwonago	12.9%	9.7%
Muskego-Norway	13.9%	10.1%
Necedah Area	59.7%	57.6%
Neenah	31.5%	26.8%
Neillsville	51.4%	48.5%

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Wisconsin Public School Districts
Free or Reduced-Price School Meal Eligibility

School District	2010-11 % Free and Reduced	2009-10 % Free and Reduced
Statewide Total	**41.4%**	**39.0%**
Nekoosa	46.4%	48.0%
Neosho J3	30.4%	28.0%
New Auburn	55.7%	53.6%
New Berlin	12.0%	10.4%
New Glarus	22.7%	18.6%
New Holstein	26.5%	23.6%
New Lisbon	58.2%	49.1%
New London	32.4%	31.4%
New Richmond	31.5%	29.6%
Niagara	42.7%	42.6%
Nicolet UHS	17.3%	14.4%
Norris	--	--
North Cape	12.3%	12.9%
North Crawford	56.5%	50.2%
North Fond du Lac	44.3%	40.2%
North Lake	--	--
North Lakeland	45.6%	40.3%
Northern Ozaukee	23.4%	19.5%
Northland Pines	39.3%	36.8%
Northwood	53.9%	52.9%
Norwalk-Ontario-Wilton	55.2%	50.8%
Norway J7	21.4%	22.0%
Oak Creek-Franklin	21.2%	18.7%
Oakfield	19.0%	16.0%
Oconomowoc Area	20.9%	15.2%
Oconto	46.8%	47.1%
Oconto Falls	38.9%	38.3%
Omro	33.9%	25.0%
Onalaska	30.3%	29.3%
Oostburg	18.2%	14.3%
Oregon	15.7%	14.4%
Osceola	34.3%	31.4%
Oshkosh Area	42.4%	38.0%
Osseo-Fairchild	41.5%	40.2%
Owen-Withee	51.0%	49.6%
Palmyra-Eagle Area	24.5%	21.2%
Pardeeville Area	32.7%	28.9%
Paris J1	11.9%	11.5%
Parkview	41.1%	41.1%
Pecatonica Area	36.4%	30.2%
Pepin Area	38.4%	31.3%
Peshtigo	44.2%	39.2%
Pewaukee	12.3%	11.4%
Phelps	57.9%	56.3%
Phillips	46.8%	43.5%
Pittsville	38.2%	38.2%
Platteville	36.6%	34.7%
Plum City	35.1%	35.9%

Districts without data do not participate in the National School Lunch Program.

Free or Reduced-Price School Meal Eligibility

School District	2010-11 % Free and Reduced	2009-10 % Free and Reduced
Statewide Total	**41.4%**	**39.0%**
Plymouth	23.5%	24.5%
Port Edwards	46.0%	47.8%
Port Wash-Saukville	24.3%	21.7%
Portage Community	38.6%	34.4%
Potosi	31.7%	41.8%
Poynette	23.4%	18.2%
Prairie du Chien Area	56.4%	52.8%
Prairie Farm	44.3%	43.2%
Prentice	45.8%	42.0%
Prescott	22.3%	19.8%
Princeton	44.7%	44.6%
Pulaski Community	26.0%	21.3%
Racine	58.5%	56.6%
Randall J1	24.7%	17.9%
Randolph	49.1%	40.9%
Random Lake	34.2%	28.5%
Raymond #14	14.9%	13.2%
Reedsburg	43.0%	37.7%
Reedsville	29.8%	27.3%
Rhinelander	49.4%	46.2%
Rib Lake	50.6%	45.9%
Rice Lake Area	43.1%	39.8%
Richfield J1	8.7%	8.6%
Richland	50.3%	45.9%
Richmond	3.2%	1.7%
Rio Community	32.7%	31.3%
Ripon	30.5%	28.6%
River Falls	19.8%	20.0%
River Ridge	46.0%	45.7%
River Valley	36.9%	36.2%
Riverdale	57.1%	55.7%
Rosendale-Brandon	23.5%	24.6%
Rosholt	30.6%	28.7%
Royall	48.5%	46.7%
Rubicon J6	21.6%	20.3%
Saint Croix Central	25.3%	21.4%
Saint Croix Falls	40.0%	37.0%
Saint Francis	39.1%	36.5%
Salem	28.7%	27.0%
Sauk Prairie	31.7%	26.6%
Seneca	57.4%	53.0%
Sevastopol	37.8%	32.5%
Seymour Community	30.1%	28.5%
Sharon J11	61.8%	55.8%
Shawano	49.1%	45.2%
Sheboygan Area	48.3%	47.0%
Sheboygan Falls	27.1%	24.4%
Shell Lake	56.3%	48.3%

Districts without data do not participate in the National School Lunch Program.

Free or Reduced-Price School Meal Eligibility

School District	2010-11 % Free and Reduced	2009-10 % Free and Reduced
Statewide Total	**41.4%**	**39.0%**
Shiocton	29.5%	23.8%
Shorewood	19.2%	16.0%
Shullsburg	44.0%	34.8%
Silver Lake J1	40.6%	38.1%
Siren	72.6%	67.6%
Slinger	16.9%	13.4%
Solon Springs	54.2%	50.7%
Somerset	29.4%	26.8%
South Milwaukee	45.1%	42.5%
South Shore	64.1%	67.1%
Southern Door	30.7%	30.1%
Southwestern Wisconsin	34.1%	32.0%
Sparta Area	47.4%	48.9%
Spencer	41.4%	35.2%
Spooner	51.5%	47.3%
Spring Valley	42.1%	37.5%
Stanley-Boyd Area	48.6%	47.5%
Stevens Point Area	38.9%	31.7%
Stockbridge	27.6%	21.8%
Stone Bank	9.8%	7.5%
Stoughton Area	22.3%	17.0%
Stratford	25.2%	22.5%
Sturgeon Bay	40.8%	35.5%
Sun Prairie Area	27.5%	25.4%
Superior	51.2%	45.9%
Suring	45.5%	42.9%
Swallow	1.3%	0.9%
Thorp	52.9%	48.5%
Three Lakes	39.1%	39.0%
Tigerton	62.5%	51.8%
Tomah Area	39.3%	36.3%
Tomahawk	42.4%	41.0%
Tomorrow River	23.3%	23.2%
Trevor-Wilmot	34.7%	30.4%
Tri-County Area	66.8%	64.6%
Turtle Lake	56.9%	51.1%
Twin Lakes #4	46.8%	39.9%
Two Rivers	45.4%	41.0%
Union Grove J1	27.6%	28.3%
Union Grove UHS	15.1%	--
Unity	55.4%	51.6%
Valders	19.8%	22.2%
Verona Area	31.0%	28.6%
Viroqua Area	45.4%	43.8%
Wabeno Area	47.2%	46.9%
Walworth J1	51.2%	49.3%
Washburn	43.7%	36.6%
Washington	--	--

Districts without data do not participate in the National School Lunch Program.

Wisconsin Public School Districts

Free or Reduced-Price School Meal Eligibility

School District	2010-11 % Free and Reduced	2009-10 % Free and Reduced
Statewide Total	**41.4%**	**39.0%**
Washington-Caldwell	13.9%	12.9%
Waterford J1	16.7%	16.3%
Waterford UHS	--	--
Waterloo	32.7%	29.6%
Watertown	42.8%	39.9%
Waukesha	34.9%	32.7%
Waunakee Community	8.6%	7.3%
Waupaca	39.8%	40.1%
Waupun	37.2%	32.4%
Wausau	49.0%	43.5%
Wausaukee	56.3%	56.1%
Wautoma Area	63.2%	60.4%
Wauwatosa	22.9%	20.1%
Wauzeka-Steuben	64.3%	62.3%
Webster	76.8%	71.9%
West Allis	58.6%	54.7%
West Bend	33.9%	30.0%
West De Pere	28.5%	25.0%
West Salem	25.5%	23.0%
Westby Area	32.9%	31.5%
Westfield	53.6%	48.8%
Weston	52.0%	42.7%
Weyauwega-Fremont	40.4%	35.7%
Wheatland J1	45.7%	39.0%
White Lake	50.8%	48.6%
Whitefish Bay	--	--
Whitehall	50.9%	48.5%
Whitewater	41.0%	35.4%
Whitnall	18.7%	14.2%
Wild Rose	46.6%	45.2%
Williams Bay	32.8%	26.5%
Wilmot UHS	30.6%	28.0%
Winneconne Community	18.0%	16.6%
Winter	74.0%	64.6%
Wisconsin Dells	47.8%	47.1%
Wisconsin Heights	31.8%	26.0%
Wisconsin Rapids	43.6%	41.8%
Wittenberg-Birnamwood	41.1%	37.1%
Wonewoc-Union Center	49.6%	45.1%
Woodruff J1	39.3%	38.1%
Wrightstown Community	22.1%	17.7%
Yorkville J2	14.0%	10.6%

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